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23 February 1949

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The Honorable Lindsay C. Warren
Comptroller General
General Accounting Office
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Warren:

The Central Intelligence Agency was charged, by Section 102(d) of the National Security Act of 1947, with the duty to coordinate such intelligence activities of the Departments and Agencies of the Government as relate to the national security, and to correlate and evaluate intelligence relating to the national security under the direction of the National Security Council. In addition, the Agency is to perform, for the benefit of the existing intelligence agencies, such additional services of common concern as the National Security Council determines can be more efficiently accomplished centrally.

Since our establishment, it has become apparent that the increasingly important field of scientific intelligence demands special and immediate attention. There has been a gap in this field which the Agency, under the specific direction of the National Security Council, has been attempting to fill by all available means. A prime difficulty has been met in obtaining a person with the requisite technical knowledge, experience, and ability to coordinate scientific intelligence throughout the various interested Agencies. This special difficulty in recruitment of scientific personnel was recognized by the Congress when it provided, in Public Law 758 of the 80th Congress, for the establishment of a limited number of positions in the National Military Establishment, for which the compensation would not be less than \$10,000 per annum nor more than \$15,000 per annum.

It is noted that positions which may be established, under that law, by the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force, are to be established within their respective Departments, but that the positions which the Secretary of Defense is authorized to establish, are not so limited and are to effectuate "any and all other activities of the National Military Establishment which requires the services of specially qualified scientific or professional personnel." The National Military Establishment is deeply interested in the coordination and correlation of scientific intelligence, but there are various other Government Agencies outside the National Military Establishment which are equally interested.

I wish to propose the following question for your opinion as to legality of the expenditures involved. There is on the staff of this

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Agency, Dr. [] who, we believe, meets all the requirements for the top coordinator of scientific intelligence. He has been with this Agency but a short time at the grade of P-8. We have been informed that one of the P-9 positions, which the Secretary of Defense is authorized to

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establish, is available to Dr. [] at a rate of compensation which is proposed to be at \$15,000 per annum. We have discussed the matter with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and are agreeable to the transfer of Dr.

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[] to the P-9 position, if he is thereupon assigned the function of coordinator of scientific intelligence for all interested Agencies.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense agrees to this assignment but has pointed out that the function of such a coordinator is a central service of common concern to all existing intelligence agencies, and that while it therefore relates to activities of the National Military Establishment in a direct manner, such coordination is a function of this Agency. They therefore propose that such an assignment should be made only if the Office of the Secretary of Defense is reimbursed by this Agency for the full salary of Dr. []

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This arrangement is not only satisfactory to the Central Intelligence Agency, but I strongly support it as an opportunity to obtain the services of the best qualified person available for an extremely important and difficult position. I have been advised that there appear to be no specific statutory prohibitions to such a reimbursement, but I feel that as the situation may be novel, we should have the benefit of your advice before concluding arrangements and making any payments thereunder. I wish to stress that this is proposed only as a temporary expedient as we have introduced legislation to support the Agency's activities which would authorize, among other things, the establishment in the Agency of three such scientific P-9 positions. But, as stated above, the need is pressing and we must proceed with the scientific intelligence program.

As we, at all times, wish not to publicize the activities and personnel of the Agency, I would greatly appreciate confidential treatment of this subject.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

R. H. HILLENKOETTER

Rear Admiral, USN

Director of Central Intelligence.

LRHouston:mao

cc: Director

Acting Executive

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